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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A brake shoe assembly comprising:
an arcuate brake shoe table defining a plurality of brake shoe table drain openings therethrough; and
a brake lining matable with said arcuate brake shoe table, said brake lining material defining a plurality of brake lining drain openings therethrough, at least one of said plurality of brake lining drain openings aligned with one of said plurality of brake shoe table drain openings to provide an unobstructed moisture escape path; and
a pair of struts attached to a concave brake shoe table inner surface which define a concave trough therebetween, said plurality of brake shoe table drain openings located in communication with said concave trough.
2. (ORIGINAL) The brake shoe assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of brake shoe table drain openings and said plurality of brake lining drain openings are circular.
3. (ORIGINAL) The brake shoe assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein each said plurality of brake shoe table drain openings and said plurality of brake lining drain openings are elongated.
4. (CANCELED)

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5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A brake shoe assembly comprising:
- an arcuate brake shoe table defining a concave brake shoe table inner surface, a convex brake shoe table outer surface and a plurality of brake shoe table drain openings therethrough; and
- a brake lining defining a wear surface, said brake lining matable with said convex brake shoe table outer surface, said brake lining material defining a plurality of brake lining drain openings therethrough, at least one of said plurality of brake lining drain openings aligned with one of said plurality of brake shoe table drain openings to provide an unobstructed moisture escape path between said concave brake shoe table inner surface and said wear surface
- a pair of struts attached to said concave brake shoe table inner surface which define a concave trough therebetween, said plurality of brake shoe table drain openings located in communication with said concave trough.

6. (ORIGINAL) The brake shoe assembly as recited in claim 5, wherein each of said plurality of brake shoe table drain openings and said plurality of brake lining drain openings are circular.

7. (ORIGINAL) The brake shoe assembly as recited in claim 5, wherein each said plurality of brake shoe table drain openings and said plurality of brake lining drain openings are elongated.

8. (CANCELED)

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9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The brake shoe assembly as recited in claim 1;~~

A brake shoe assembly comprising:

an arcuate brake shoe table defining a plurality of brake shoe table drain openings therethrough; and

a brake lining matable with said arcuate brake shoe table, said brake lining material defining a plurality of brake lining drain openings therethrough, at least one of said plurality of brake lining drain openings aligned with one of said plurality of brake shoe table drain openings to provide an unobstructed moisture escape path wherein said unobstructed moisture escape path is unpressurized.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The brake shoe assembly as recited in claim 1;~~

A brake shoe assembly comprising:

an arcuate brake shoe table defining a plurality of brake shoe table drain openings therethrough; and

a brake lining matable with said arcuate brake shoe table, said brake lining material defining a plurality of brake lining drain openings therethrough, at least one of said plurality of brake lining drain openings aligned with one of said plurality of brake shoe table drain openings to provide an unobstructed moisture escape path wherein said unobstructed moisture escape path is open to atmosphere on both ends.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The brake shoe assembly as recited in claim 5;~~

A brake shoe assembly comprising:

an arcuate brake shoe table defining a concave brake shoe table inner surface, a convex brake shoe table outer surface and a plurality of brake shoe table drain openings therethrough; and

a brake lining defining a wear surface, said brake lining matable with said convex brake shoe table outer surface, said brake lining material defining a plurality of brake

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lining drain openings therethrough, at least one of said plurality of brake lining drain openings aligned with one of said plurality of brake shoe table drain openings to provide an unobstructed moisture escape path between said concave brake shoe table inner surface and said wear surface, wherein said unobstructed moisture escape path is unpressurized.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The brake shoe assembly as recited in claim 5;~~

A brake shoe assembly comprising:

an arcuate brake shoe table defining a concave brake shoe table inner surface, a convex brake shoe table outer surface and a plurality of brake shoe table drain openings therethrough; and

a brake lining defining a wear surface, said brake lining matable with said convex brake shoe table outer surface, said brake lining material defining a plurality of brake lining drain openings therethrough, at least one of said plurality of brake lining drain openings aligned with one of said plurality of brake shoe table drain openings to provide an unobstructed moisture escape path between said concave brake shoe table inner surface and said wear surface wherein said unobstructed moisture escape path is open to atmosphere on both ends.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A brake pad comprising:

a brake lining friction material matable with an arcuate brake shoe table, said brake lining material defining a plurality of brake lining drain openings therethrough, at least one of said plurality of brake lining drain openings aligned with at least one opening through said brake shoe table to provide an unpressurized unobstructed moisture escape path open to atmosphere on both ends though both the brake lining and the arcuate brake shoe table.